

(San Antonio, TX) - In anticipation of the first BRAC groundbreaking at Fort Sam Houston this Friday, Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20) and Congressman Ciro Rodriguez (TX-23) met with local officials this morning at Fort Sam Houston for a briefing on the progress of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) projects across San Antonio.

The meeting with Dr. Cem Maxwell of the San Antonio Integration Office for BRAC, Col. Wendy Martinson, Garrison Commander at Fort Sam Houston, and Randy Holman of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers took place less than three weeks after President Bush signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, an omnibus spending bill passed by Congress in December of 2007. The legislation included \$7.235 billion for the 2005 BRAC recommendations, a \$1.6 billion increase from 2007, and will allow BRAC projects and construction to continue throughout the 2008 fiscal year.

Among the facilities slated to receive major funding include Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston and Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX.

"Friday's groundbreaking on the first BRAC-related project at Fort Sam Houston represents our breaking ground on a great future for San Antonio. I am encouraged by our meeting today, and I will continue to work closely with my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to make sure that San Antonio's BRAC needs are front and center in Washington," said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23). Securing BRAC's long-term multi-billion dollar investment in our great city is my highest priority in Congress and I am proud that our whole delegation - Representatives and Senators, Democrats and Republicans - have been united in supporting San Antonio throughout the BRAC process and into the future."

"This morning's meeting was a great opportunity to continue our ongoing dialogue with local officials on the progress of BRAC projects in San Antonio. Our bipartisan efforts in Washington have ensured that construction for San Antonio's high priority projects are on schedule, and I'm anxiously looking forward to this Friday's ground breaking ceremony at Fort Sam Houston which will signal the start of the first of many BRAC projects in our community," said Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20). "Our unwavering commitment to BRAC will remain strong through 2008 and beyond as we continue to secure federal funding for San Antonio," he added.

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